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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/585,061	04/24/2007	Stefan Butzmann	DE04 0011US1	6201
65913	7550	05/04/2009		
NXP, B.V. NXP INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT M/S41-SJ 1109 MCKAY DRIVE SAN JOSE, CA 95131				
EXAMINER				
LEDYNH, BOT L				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2862				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
05/04/2009		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

ip.department.us@nxp.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/585,061

Applicant(s)

BUTZMANN, STEFAN

Examiner

Bot LeDinh

Art Unit

2862

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 February 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 11-13 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4 and 8-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 and 5-7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 June 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/808)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Doescher (20020149358). Doescher discloses the same invention as claimed. See Fig.2; paragraph 0046 for AMR.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doescher. Doescher discloses substantially the same invention as claimed, except for the circular shape of the AMR layer and the shape of the contacts, which contacts are arranged equidistantly in at the edge of the circular AMR layer. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the Doescher's AMR layer by employing the AMR layer which is circular and the contacts

which are arranged equidistantly at the edge of the AMR layer for aesthetic purposes. Moreover, mere change in shape or form is not patentable unless the changed element performs a new function. In re HANLON, 128 USPQ 384,386 (C.C.P.A. 1961); In re Launder and Hosmer, 105 USPQ 446, 450 (C.C.P.A. 1955).

6. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doescher. Doescher discloses substantially the same invention as claimed, except for the plurality of contacts being placed at ground potential. It is well known in the angle sensor art that two full bridge circuits have terminal contacts at ground level in order to measure the output signals. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Doescher by employing ground level contacts of the two full bridges in order to measure output signals.

7. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doescher. Doescher discloses substantially the same invention as claimed, except for the AMR being a permalloy layer applied to a silicon support substrate. It is well known in the sensor art that permalloy layers used as AMR sensors applied on a silicon substrate are employed in order to make AMR sensor chips or packages. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Doescher by employing a permalloy layer used as an AMR layer applied on a silicon substrate in order to make AMR sensor chips or packages.

8. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doescher. Doescher discloses substantially the same invention as claimed (including the use of sensors in combustion engines or steering angle recognition (see col. 1,

paragraph 0001), except for the sensor being used in monitoring positions of pedals or throttles. It is well known in the rotary sensor art that rotary sensors have been used to monitor positions of pedals or throttles. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Doescher by using the device in relation to pedals or throttles in order to monitor positions of pedals or throttles.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 11-13 are allowed.
10. Claims 3 and 5-7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
11. Applicant's arguments filed 2/17/09 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The Applicant argues that Doescher's "sensor using strips of AMR material aligned to a particular angle is different from the continuous AMR layer recited in claim 1 because the sensor does not use a continuous layer." The Examiner disagrees. Doescher discloses a continuous, flat AMR layer 20, 64 and 68.
12. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Bot LeDinh whose telephone number is 5712722231. The Examiner normally does not work on Fridays. The examiner can normally be reached on Maxiflex.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, PATRICK J. ASSOUAD can be reached on (571)272-2210. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

BL/ 2009

/Bot LeDinh/
Bot LeDinh
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2862